

## **Minutes of the Jasper Community Arts Commission**

### **City of Jasper, Indiana held May 3, 2005**

The regular meeting of the Jasper Community Arts Commission was held at 4:30 pm on Tuesday, May 3, 2005 at the Jasper Arts Center with President Gerald Gagne presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and then roll call was held with the following **Commission Members Present:** Gerald Gagne, Don Routson, Doug Abbett, Gloria Buecher, Ann Hilgefert, Michael Jones, Sylvia Metzger, Myra Schuetter, Pat Thyen and Don Weisheit. **Commission Members Absent:** Robin Norris. **Staff Members Present:** Darla Blazey, Doreen Lechner, Kit Miracle, Donna Schepers. **Regional Services Coordinator:** Jill Watson. **Guests in Attendance:** City Attorney, Sandy Hemmerlein; and City Councilmen: Butch Schitter, Tom Schmitt, and John Schroeder.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Sylvia Metzger** moved, **Gloria Buecher** seconded the approval of the minutes of the April 5, 2005 board meeting. Motion passed 10-0.

### **City Financial Statement**

Darla reported. She noted that the season ended on Friday April 30<sup>th</sup>. Backstage tickets were up a couple of thousand dollars from last year. Support money is coming in from Chalk Walk, summer ARTventures and through the school programs. Friends of the Arts approved a grant of \$40,000 for the next fiscal year.

### **City Claims and Regional Partnership Grant Claims**

City claims in the amount of \$7,396.50 were presented. Regional Partnership Grant claims in the amount of \$1,848.00 were presented. After conclusion of discussion, it was moved by **Don Routson** to accept the financial statement and claims as presented. **Don Weisheit** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

### **Public Business**

Darla reported. Community Choir Celebration Singers, an all volunteer choir, wants to use the Arts Center for a September 11<sup>th</sup> special concert and would like to co-present with JCAC. They would like a no cost or low cost rental fee and would split the proceeds of what is brought in at the concert. They usually have a free-will donation at their concerts. After much discussion, it was decided to table the issue until next month. **Don Routson** moved to table the discussion. **Doug Abbett** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Visual Arts Report**

Kit reported.

- Art Guild Exhibit came down on May 2, 2005.
- The Summer ARTventures classes have been finalized. Judy Bray will not be teaching the classes due to a medical problem. A replacement teacher, Jaci Fox, has been hired.
- School visits continue to increase.
- The Visual Arts Committee has reviewed 80 portfolios. A copy of Visual Arts lineup and Lecture Series is attached.

**Pat Thyen** motioned to approve the 2005-2006 visual arts lineup and lecture series, **Sylvia Metzger** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

#### **Education Report**

Donna reported.

- Donna went to the Huntingburg Study Group on Thursday May 5<sup>th</sup> to talk about the JCAC's programs.
- Shakespeare Week was a success. There were over 250 parents/students that attended Shakespeare night. The evaluations from teachers in particular were good. The Kennedy Center work will hopefully broaden the students' experiences.

- The “Steel Magnolias” acting workshop was a success.
- Janice Martin, violinist, was well received in the schools last week.
- The education committee needs a new name. Donna requested board members think about it and contact her. A new chairperson is also needed. Marilyn Roberts has done a magnificent job and will be missed.
- Donna will be attending the Kennedy Center Partners-In-Education Institute the week of May 9th with Darla, Dr. Riggs and Nancy Habig.
- The Education Series is almost complete for next year. Donna will be talking to teachers and principals in the coming weeks.

### **Buildings & Structures Report**

Doreen reported.

- All purchases that were approved last month have been made. The new PC came in and was installed. The stage drapery has been ordered.
- Building usage has been active. April alone had 4 rentals and 4 performing arts programs.

### **Region 11 Report**

Jill reported.

- A workshop was held on April 11<sup>th</sup> called, “Working the Web”. Participants learned about websites for artists. Local artists attended along with artists from Holland, Perry County, and Orange County.
- Jill will be holding her grant panel review meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. They will review 15 applications. \$28,000 is available this year.
- Jill attended the review of our grant application (Biennial Plan) submitted to the Indiana Arts Commission. The panel was critical of the partnership applications in general. The JCAC’s grant request was divided in three categories:
  - Regional Block Grants (RBG), lowered by the IAC to \$28,782 per fiscal year from \$30,296;
  - Arts Development Services (ADS) portion—the administrative money which pays for contracted services and reimbursement to the City for resources and staff time involved in the partnership, started with a base of \$35,000 per year plus incentive money. The JCAC requested a total of \$23,737 in incentive funds for the 2 year period.
  - Community Arts Programs (CAP) portion which directly supports the JCAC programming and was given at a historic level but will be competitive this biennium. The JCAC’s request was \$109,625 over a two year period.

The JCAC scores for incentive funds was 82% (80% minimum) and for CAP 89% (fifth highest). The IAC will announce funding amounts in the near future, probably at the May Partners meeting.

- Craig Dreeszen, a nationally known cultural planning expert, will be in Jasper on Wednesday, May 4, for a planning meeting with Jill and members of the Region 11 Advisory Council. Board members and staff are also invited.

### **Performing Arts Report**

Darla reported.

- Janice Martin was the final event for the 04-05 series. There were about 130 people in attendance. “Steel Magnolias” was also well attended.
- Planning for the next season has begun and the promotion materials will be coming out soon. The contracts are coming in.
- The box office software will be installed the week of May 16<sup>th</sup>. All the tickets for next season, as well as all donations and volunteer hours will be entered in this system.

## **Chalk Walk Arts Festival Report**

Darla reported.

- The Chalk Walk is Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>. Over 170 registrations have been received. That total has surpassed last year's. The participants range from age 22 months to 56 years old. About a dozen artists are participating in the Arts Market. There will be live music and food vendors. Six hands-on activity stations will also be part of the festivities. The Dubois County Art Guild will have an exhibit in the Old Jasper Train Depot
- A youth art contest will be on display in the windows of businesses around the square. It is being sponsored by the Greater Jasper Downtown Business Association.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Box Office Software**

Doug Abbett reported.

- Doug reported on the handling fees and stated that most performing arts presenters do charge a handling fee on ticket sales. It was decided to charge a \$3.00 transaction fee for phone or mail in orders for season tickets. A \$2.00 transaction fee for single ticket sales would be charged. Walk-ins and day of performance purchases will not be charged a transaction fee. Possible income from the handling fees could be between \$3000-\$4000 a year. Darla stated that a separate line under income on the financial statement would be added to keep track of the money coming in. Doug advised that income from the rentals will not be charged a transaction fee.
- **Don Routson** made a motion to amend the JCAC's March recommendation to the City Council to state that a \$3.00 transaction fee for phone or mail in orders for season tickets and a \$2.00 transaction fee for single ticket sales would be charged. No charge will be made for walk-ins or purchases the day of the event at the door. **Mike Jones** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.
- **Mike Jones** made a motion to rescind the motion made regarding handling fees at the March board meeting. **Don Routson** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

## **Friends of the Arts Meeting**

- Friends of the Arts discussed future Jasper Arts Center improvements. The Friends would like JCAC's top needs outlined by June 10. Board members discussed building issues including additional restrooms, handicap accessibility, expanded gallery and visual arts/meeting classrooms. Jerry suggested that the Building Expansion Committee be reconvened.

## **Adjournment**

**Don Routson** made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 pm, **Sylvia Metzger** seconded. Motion passed 10-0. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday June 7, 2005 at 4:30 pm.

---

**Gerald Gagne, President**

---

**Don Routson, Secretary-Treasurer**